Assurbanipal Inscriptions in the Oriental Institute: 
Prisms E, H, and J

Jamie R. Novotny

In 1928, E. Chiera purchased for the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago several hundred cuneiform texts, including parts of numerous Assurbanipal prisms, from a local dealer in Mosul. The fragments most likely originate from clandestine digging at Nineveh during R. C. Thompson's excavations and may come from Area SH (House of Aššur-šumu-ušabši, formerly "Sennacherib's House") — which is east of Gate 12, near the city wall, and approximately 500 m north of Kuyunjik — or a similar provenance.

Once they were in the Oriental Institute, A. C. Piepkorn systematically examined and transliterated the texts, grouped them more or less according to the editions to which they belong, and gave them consecutive museum numbers. He published editions of A 7919-8010 in 1933, but did not complete his editions of A 8011-8163. In 1988, M. Cogan and H. Tadmor published a catalogue of the previously unpublished Assurbanipal material, including some additional fragments purchased by Chiera and Piepkorn (A 11848 – A 11870).

Between the beginning of 1990 and the summer of 1994, R. Borger examined and transliterated all of the aforementioned texts in the Asiatic (A) collection and, in 1996, he published (on microfiche) handwritten transliterations of all of the Assurbanipal prisms in the Oriental Institute.

In March 2002, December 2003, and October 2004, I recollated and copied the fragments of Prisms E, H,

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1 I would like to thank G. Frame and R. F. G. Sweet for offering their critical remarks on a draft of this manuscript. Their assistance is greatly appreciated. Moreover, I am grateful to W. Farber for allowing me access to the Assurbanipal material in the Oriental Institute and to J. Tenney for the efficient and speedy supply of prisms.


3 Piepkorn, Asb.

4 Cogan–Tadmor, JCS 40, 84-96.

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and J. Since copies of these pieces have not yet been published, I take this opportunity to do so with the kind permission of W. Farber, curator of the tablet collection of the Oriental Institute. New editions of the fragments, with a few minor notes, are also included here.

Prisms $E_1$ and $E_2$

Fragments of at least thirteen (possibly sixteen) clay prisms preserve parts of the earliest editions of Assurbanipal’s prism inscriptions: Prisms $E_1$ (ca. 666-665 BC) and $E_2$ (ca. 665-664 BC)

The majority of the pieces originate from nineteenth century excavations (nos. 1, 9-11, and 14-15) or from Thompson’s excavations at Nineveh (nos. 4-8, 12, and 16), and a few were purchased by Chiera (nos. 2-3 and 12-13). Both editions describe the nomination of Assurbanipal as heir designate of Assyria, his education in the House-of-Succession, the first Egyptian campaign, and the conquest of the city of Qirbit. Prism $E_1$ (nos. 1-3) also contains reports of the submission of the Lydian king Gyges, a lion hunt, an akītu-festival held in Arbeela, and the rebuilding of the House-of-Succession in Nineveh. Prism $E_2$ (nos. 4-8) has a different version of the Gyges narrative and an account of the rebuilding of a section of the citadel wall of Nineveh.

Catalogue:

$E_1$
1. K 1821 (Borger’s E1) (+)? 85-5-22,2
2. A 7920 + A 8138 (Borger’s E13)
3. 8130 (Borger’s E14)
$E_2$
4. BM 121018 (+) BM 128305 + BM 134481 (Borger’s E6)
5. BM 127923 + BM 128324 (Borger’s E8)
6. BM 127940 + BM 134455 (Borger’s E9)
7. BM 128306 + BM 134445 (Borger’s E11)
8. BM 134454 (Borger’s E12)


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E₁ or E₂
9. K 1828 (Borger’s E2)
10. 81-7-27,263*¹
11. 89-4-26,151 (Borger’s E4)
12. BM 121029 + BM 128230 (+) BM 128298 (+) A 7919 (Borger’s E7)
13. A 8140 (Borger’s E15)
   Uncertain attribution⁹
14. 82-5-22,21 (Borger’s E3)
15. BM 99326 (Borger’s E5)
16. BM 128302 + BM 128311 (Borger’s E10)

Five fragments of the E-Prisms have been identified among the cuneiform texts purchased by Chiera; Borger has subsequently joined two of the pieces, A 7920 and A 8130. A7920 + A 8138 and A 8130 clearly belong to Edition E₁, whereas A 7919 and A 8140 could be part of either E₁ or E₂.

A 7919 (old Oriental Institute no. 44; Borger’s E7) probably belongs to the same object as BM 121029+, is a duplicate of K 1828 and BM 121018+, measures 7.4 × 7.6 × 2.1 cm, and most likely comes from the middle of cols. iii and iv of a heptagonal or octagonal prism¹⁰. Both columns preserve portions of an account of the first Egyptian campaign. Col. i’ has part of the beginning of the earliest known report of the first Egyptian campaign, specifically the section describing Esarhaddon’s conquest of Egypt and the establishment of a pro-Assyrian government there. The extant text duplicates K 1828 i’¹¹. Col. ii’ records the flight of the pharaoh Taharka from Memphis to Thebes by boat and the defeat of his army and warships; it also enumerates the support that the kings of Syria and the Sea Coast, as well as some pro-Assyrian Egyptian city rulers, provided Assyria with during the reconquest of Egypt. Lines 4’-13’ duplicate BM 121018+ i’ and the Large Egyptian Tablets (LET): 23’-34’¹².

⁹ For the opinion that nos. 14-16 belong to an unclassified edition that was composed sometime between 663 BC and 650 BC, see Weissert-Onasch, Òr 61, 73 n. 46; and Novotny, “Zabalu-Metal for Marduk’s Paramāhu and the Date of Assurbanipal’s E-Prisms”, Òr 72 (2003) 211-214. The fragments preserve passages reporting on the gods endowing the king with surpassing intelligence and a muscular physique, the completion of the temple of the god Aššur in Assur (Elḫursaggalkurkura, “House of the Great Mountain of the Lands”), and the restoration and decoration of the temple of the god Marduk in Babylon (Esagila, “House whose Top is High”).
¹⁰ Cogan and Tadmor (Ôr 46, 69-70) suggest that the fragment comes from cols. ii-iii.
¹¹ Borger, BIWA 177, Stück 7.
¹² Respectively Borger, BIWA 178, Stück 10; and Onasch, AAT 27/1, 104.
Transliteration

Lacuna

1') [...] [ru₁-[u-qu]
2') [...] a-lak₁-[tu]š
4') [X x-du-ma il-l]i-ku qé-reb-šá
5') [BAD₂,BAD₃ m-tar-qu]-r₁ MAN KUR.ku-u-si
6') [iš ku-nu-ma ú-pa]r-ri-ru el-lat-su
7') [KUR.mu-šur KUR.ku-ú-su]u ik-šu-du-ma
8') [ina la mi-ni iš]-lu-la šal-lat-su
9') [KUR₃ šu-a-tu ina si-ḫir]-t₁-sá i-bi-il-ma
10') [a-na mi-šir KUR]-m₃-aš₃ sur₃.KI ú-tir
11') [MU.MEŠ URU.MEŠ-ni maḥ-r]u-ti ú-nak-ki-r₁-ma
12') [a-na eš šu-ú-te i]z-ku-ra ni-bit-sun
13') [ARAD.MEŠ-šú a-na LUGAL]-r₁ LÚ.NAM-u-ti
14') [LÚ.GAR-nu-ú-te ú-pa]-qid₁ ina lib-bi
Translation

i' 1'-15') [...] re[mote place, ...] its w[ay, wherein Esarhaddon, king of Assyria], the father who engendered me, [went down and marched inside it, defeated Taharka, the king of Kush, and scattered his forces, conquered Egypt (and) Kush, and carried off its booty [without number]. He took possession of [that land in] its [entire]ty and brought it [into] Assyrian territory. He changed [the form]er [names of the cities] and gave them [new] names. He appointed [his servants therein as king]s, viceroy[ys, and] [governors. Annually, he imposed upon them tax (and) trib-ute due to] him [as lord].

ii' 1'-8') He (Taharka) escaped [from Memphis, the city of his kingship where (he put) his trust. To save his life, he embarked] on a
bo[at], abandoned his camp, [fled alone, and entered] the city of Thebes. Th[e]y (my army) captured as many] warships [as he had with him] and his combat troops. A messenger to[id me] the [good] new[s] which he had witnessed.

ii' 9'-18') To banish Tahark[a f]rom Egypt (and) K[ush, I added to] my form[er] a[r]my [the] magnates, go[vernors], and [all] the kings of Sy­ria (eber nāri), along with their armies (and) b[oats], (as well as) the kings of Eg[ypt, servants obedient to me], together with their boats (and) ar­[mies], and I sent (them) to the [city of Thebes. ...].

Lacuna

A 7920 + A 8138 (old Oriental Institute nos. 156 and 70; Borger’s E13) is an exemplar of Prism E, a duplicate of K 1821+ and A 8130, measures 10.9 × 7.8 × 2.0 cm, and is a fragment from the middle of the last two columns of a heptagonal prism. Col. i' preserves a substantial portion of the version of the report of the submission of Gyges in which nobody in Assurbanipal’s court was able to interpret the message of the Lydian en­voy13. Lines 3'-15' duplicate K 1821+ ii' and line 25' duplicates A 8130 i' l'. Col. ii' has the final part of the building report, which is the earliest known account recording the rebuilding of the House-of-Succession in Nineveh, and most of the concluding formulae14. Lines 20'-23' duplicate A 8130 ii' l'-4'.

Transliteration

col. i'

Lacuna

1') [...]x'[x x]
2') [...] LÚ.A]-rKIN-šū ID3 [x x]
3') a-na šāl'-a-al šul-r3 ia
4') [i]-ša-a a-na mi-šir KUR-ia
5') [U]N.MEŠ KUR-ia i-mu-ru-šu-ia
6') [ma]n-[-nu-me-e a-ta a-ḫu-u iq-šu
7') [ša ma]-te-ia LÚ.RA.GABA-ú-ku-ia
8') [da-ra]g-gu la iš-ku-na a-na ki-sur-ri-ni
9') [a-na NJ][NA.KI URU be-lu-ti-ia
10') [x x (x)] ū-bi-[-lu-ni-šu ùn mah-ri-ia
11') [EME.MEŠ ši-it 4UTU-ši e-reb 4UTU-ši
12') [ša aššur ū-ma-lu-ia qa-tu-ia-a

13 Borger, BIWA 182, Stück 16. For studies of the different Gyges narratives see in particular Cogan–Tadmor, Or 46, 65-84.
14 Borger, BIWA 183-184, Stück 19.
13') [EN-šá-ni-šú ul ib-ši-ma
14') [EME-šu na-ak-rat-ma
15') [la i-šem]-mu-ú at-mu-šú
16') [ul-tu m]-i-sir KUR-šú
17') [...] ti-šú ú-bi-l[a]m-ša1
18') [šá ú-šá-an-na]-a1 da-b[a]b-šú
19') [ki-a-am] iq-b[a] ARAD pa-l[i]h-ka
20') [...] ú-tul[a]-ma
21') [MÁŠ.GI₆ i]-na₁-ṭa-al
Lacuna

col. ii

1') ina muḫ-ḫeš[x x ...]
2') maš-šan-šú [...]
3') e-li ša ʾu₄-mi pa-ni]
4') šu-bat-su 'ū₃-[rap-piš]
5') ina ʾiti šal-me [u₄-me še-me-e]
6') ʾu₄-šu ad-di-ma 'ū₃-[kin sig₄-su]
7') ul-tū ʾu₄-šu a-d[i GABA,DIB-bē-šū]
8') ar-šip 'ū₃-[šak-šil]
9') a-na EGIR u₄-me ina L[UGAL,MEŠ DUMU,MEŠ-ia]
10') ša 'a-šur u [ʾi₅]'
11') a-na be-lut KUR 'ū₃ [UN,MEš]
12') i-nam-bu-[u zi-kir-šú]
13') e-nu-ma 'ē₃-Uš³-[u-ti šu-a-tu]
14') 'ī₃-[I]ab-bi-ru-m[a in-na-ḥu]
15') an-ḥu-us-s[u lu-ud-diš]
16') ki-i ša a-na-[ku MU,SAR-u]
17') ši-tir šu-me LUG[AL pa-ni² a-mu-ru]
18') it-ti [MU,SAR-e]
19') ši-tir MU-ia₁ [āš-ku-nu]
20') at-ta ki-i i[a-a-ti-ma]
21') MU,SAR-ū ši-tir [MU-ia a-mur-ma]
22') IXGIŠ pu-šu-uš U[DUL,SISKUR BAL-qī]
23') it-ti₄ [MU,SAR-e ši-tir MU-ka]

Lacuna

Translation

col. i’

Lacuna

i’ 1’-15’) [...] his [mes]enger [...] to enquire about my well-being [app]roached the border of my land. [The pe]ople of my land saw him and said to him: “[Wh]o are you, stranger? An ambassador of yours has [nev]er taken [the ro]ad to our territory.” They brought him [to Ni]neveh, the city of my lordship, (and) [...] into my presence. [(Among all the languages]
(from) sun[ri]se (to) sunset, [which the god Aššur had placed at my disposal, nobody could [master] his [language]. [H]is [language] was (completely) different and his speech [could not be understood].

i' 16'-25') He brought with him [from the border of his land, [who repeated] his speech [to] me, [saying] as follows: "The servant who reveres you, lay down [...] and [saw] a dream. [...] was established [... ros]e and [...]

Lacuna

col. ii'

Lacuna

ii' 1'-8') Upon [...] its (the House-of-Succ[ession's]) emplacement [...]. I [made] its structure [larger] than it had been pre[viously]. I laid its foundations in a favourable month (and) [on an auspicious day], and [firmly] es[tablished its brickwork. I completely] (re)built (it) from its foundations to its crenellations.

ii' 9'-15') In the future, [may] (somebody) among the kings, my children, whom the god Aššur and [the goddess Ištar] nomin[ate] for ruling over the land [and people, renovate] the dilapidated section(s) of [this] House-of-Succ[ession], when it becomes old and dilapidated.

ii' 16'-23') Just as I, (when) I [found an inscription] written in the name of a [previous] king, placed (it) with [an inscription] written in my name, you, like me, (when) you find an inscription written in [my name], anoint (it) with oil, [offer] a sacrifice, (and) place (it) with [an inscription written in your name]!

Lacuna

Notes

i' 1': There are traces of a sign above ḫd in line 2' (Borger's line 1').

i' 12': On the basis of ii' 10', the name of the god Aššur is likely written as 𒈹a-šur, rather than as 𒀀aš-šur; compare Borger, BIWA 182.

i' 18': There is sufficient space to restore [ša 𒌋-ša-an-na]-t[a]. The line most likely begins with ša or ša; compare Borger, BIWA 182.

i' 19': The line probably begins with [ki-ša-am]; compare Borger, BIWA 182.

ii' 1': The sign following ḫgū (read as muḫ) is ḫ (see copy). There are traces of a sign following ḫ.ii' 5': The restoration of uš-me še-me-e after ina iti šal-me is based on Prism T v 44 (Borger, BIWA 169). Borger's suggestion (BIWA 183) of [ūmi mitgārī] is not attested in Assurbanipal's inscriptions.
The restoration of 15 is based on Prism F vi 62 and Prism A x 109 (Borger, BIWA 74); the building report of all three inscriptions describe the rebuilding of the House-of-Succession in Nineveh. The pairing of the god Aššur with the goddess Ištar occurs regularly in the advice to future rulers of other prism inscriptions from Nineveh; see Prism B vii 79 (BIWA 117), Prism D vii 82 (BIWA 119), Prism C x 105 (BIWA 164), and Prism G ex. GIE iii 6 (BIWA 119).

A 8130 (old Oriental Institute no. 236; Borger’s E14) is an exemplar of Prism E, measures 6.4 x 5.2 x 4.5 cm, and comes from the middle of the last two columns of a heptagonal prism. Col. i' has part of the same version of the submission of Gyges as K 1821+ and A 7920+15. Line 1’ duplicates the final line of A 7920+ i’. Col. ii’ contains the final lines of the concluding formulae and traces of the date16. Lines 1’-4’ duplicate A 7920+ ii’ 20'-23’.

Fig. 3 – A 8130

15 Borger, BIWA 182, Stück 16.
16 Ibid. 184, Stück 19.
Transliteration

col. i'
Lacuna
1') [...] x na-pi-ih-ma
2') [...] na]-1mir1-tú šak-na-at
3') [...] -u]š LUGAL-ša
4') [...] -r]i nam-ri
5') [...] x qé-reb-ša
6') [...] 4a-šur2] EN KUR.KUR DINGIR-u-a
7') [...] i{1-zi-za-am-ma
8') [...] i{1-ba-a
9') [...] x [x (x) x ]x

Lacuna

col. ii'
Lacuna
1') 'at-ta ki-i3 [ia-a-ti-ma]
2') MU.SAR-ú ši-[ir MU-ia a-mur-ma]
3') IXGIŠ pu-šu-u[š UDU.SISKUR BAL-qí]
4') it-i [i MU.SAR-e ši-țir MU-ka]
5') šu-k[un 4a-šur u 415']
6') ik-[ri-bi-ka i-šem-mu(-u)]

7') i[ti ...]
8') L[i{n [na ...]
9') L[Ú ...]

Translation

col. i'
Lacuna
i' 1'-9') [...] rose and [...] light appeared. [...] of its king [...] bright [...] inside it [...] The god Assur], lord of the lands, my god, [...] stood there and [...] he said to me: [...] Lacuna

col. ii'
Lacuna
ii' 1'-6') You, like [me, (when) you find] an inscription writ[en in my name], anoint (it) with oil, [offer a sacrifice], (and) pla[ce (it)] with an inscription written in your name! The god Assur and the goddess Ištar will (then) listen to your] prayers.
ii' 7'-9') [...th day of] the mo[nth ...], i[n the eponymy of ...], th[e ... of the city/land ...].

Notes

i' 2': [na]mirtu šaknat occurs also in the Assurbanipal Epic; see T. Bauer, Asb. pl. 21 K 2524:2 and pl. 45 K 7673:14.

i' 6': The restoration of the divine name is based on the god Aššur revealing a dream to the Lydian king in the Gyges narratives of the LET (Onasch, ĀAT 27/1, 110 LET rev. 21) and of Prisms B, D, C, CND, G, F, and A (Borger, BIWA 30 B ii 95-96, C iv 4-5, F ii 13, and A ii 97). For the writing of the name as aš-šur see A 7920+ ii' 10' (see above).

i' 5': The restoration of the divine names is based on A 7920+ ii' 10' (see above).

i' 6': This is the only known occurrence of ikribika išemmu ("they will listen to your prayers") in Assurbanipal's prism inscriptions. This benediction occurs regularly in texts written on clay cylinders from Babylonia; see, for example, G. Frame, Rulers of Babylonia: From the Second Dynasty of Isin to the End of Assyrian Domination (1157-612 BC) (RIMB 2; Toronto 1995) 198 no. B.6.32.1:27, 201 no. B.6.32.2:81-82, and 208 no. B.6.32.6:30.

ii' 7'-8': Parts of only three signs of the date are preserved. Nothing of value can be gleaned from the traces.

A 8140 (Borger's E15) measures 3.5 × 3.7 × 1.6 cm, is a duplicate of K 1828, and most likely comes from the middle of cols. ii and iii of a heptagonal(?) prism. Col. i' contains a small portion of the prologue, a section stating that the gods placed Assurbanipal on the throne and that nobles and courtiers wanted him as their lord and desired his services as king.

Although only a small portion of the right side of each line is preserved, the passage can be restored from K 2694 + K 3050 (Streck's London 4) ii 11'-13'. Col. ii' has part of the earliest known report of the first Egyptian campaign, the section describing events that took place during the reign of Esarhaddon, and partially duplicates K 1828 i'.
Transliteration

col. i'
Lacuna
1') [ina qi-bi-ti-šú-n]u ši-ir-ti
2') [ú-šib taş-a-biš ina G]iš.GU.ZA ṣAD1 DU-ia
3') [ru-bé-e LÚ.s]u-ut-[SAG1.MEŠ
4') [EN-u-ti] [h-šu-ḫu
5') [i-ra-mu e-peš LUGAL-t]i-ia
6') [ina zi-kir MU-ia kab]-ti
7') [ha-du-ū i-ri-šú kib-rat LIMMU]-tim
Lacuna

col. ii'
Lacuna
1') a-įna1 [mi-šir KUR-as-sur.KI ū-tir]
2') [M]U.[ME š URU.MEŠ-ni mah-ru-ti ū-nak_Ki-ir-ma
3') a-įna1 [eš-šu-ū-te iz-ku-ra ni-bit-sūn]
4') [ARAD1.ME š-šū a-na LUGAL-ti LÚ.NAM-u-ti]
5') [L]U.[GAR1 nu-ū-te ū-pa-qid ina lib-bi]
6') [GU]N1 [man-da-at-tu be-lu-ti-šū]
Lacuna

Translation

col. i'
Lacuna
i' 1'-7') [... by their (the great gods')] exalted [command, I sat with pleasure on] the throne of the father who engendered me. [Nobles and
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of officials wanted [me as (their) lord (and) desired] me [as (their) king. By pronouncing my honour]ed [name, the (inhabitants of the) fo]ur [quarters rejoiced happily].

Lacuna

col. ii'

Lacuna

ii' 1'-6') [He (Esarhaddon) brought it (Egypt)] into [Assyrian territo­

ry. He changed the former] names [of the cities and gave them new

names. He appointed his] servants [therein as kings, viceroy{s], (and) gover­

[nors. Annually, he established upon them tax (and) [tribute due to him as

lord].

Lacuna

Prism H

Fragments of three clay prisms whose script is contemporary Babylonian

preserve parts of the second latest dateable prism inscription composed under

the auspices of Assurbanipal: Prism H (639 BC). One fragment was discov­

ered by R. Koldewey at Babylon (no. 1), one is said to have come from the

German excavations at Babylon (no. 2), part of one exemplar was purchased

by Chiera in 1928 (no. 3, A 8105), and another part of that last prism prob­

ably comes from clandestine digging at Nineveh (no. 3, MAH 16514). The

extant text contains (1) parts of the prologue, which contains reports of

the decoration of the temple of the god Marduk in Babylon (Esagil, "House

whose Top is High") and the temple of the god Nabû in Borsippa (Ezida, "True House"), and the reconstruction of the temple of the god Nergal in

Cutha (Emeslam, "House, Warrior of the Netherworld"), (2) the military nar­

ration, which describes the second Egyptian campaign, events along the Syr­

ian Coast, the submission of the Mannean king Ualli, the first and second

20 For the most recent edition, see Borger, *BIWA* 189-193, 210, 215, 217, 222-223, 228, 232, 250, and 257. A. R. Millard ("Fragments of Historical Texts from Nineveh: Ashurbanipal", *Iraq* 30 [1968] 109 and pl. XXIV), P. D. Gerardi (Assurbanipal's Elamite Campaigns: A Literary and Political Study [unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Pennsylvania 1987] 114 n. 247), and Borger (BIWA 193 H4) regarded BM 127994 as an exemplar of Prism H since its script is contemporary Babylonian. The present author in Ebulbul, Egipar, Emelama, and Sin's Akītu-House: A Study of Assyrian Building Activities at Harrān (= Ebulbul; unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Toronto 2003) 330, and in Or 72, 215, suggests that the piece is more likely part of an unclassified prism inscription whose terminus post quem is the accession of Ununanaldasu (Huban-haltaš III) and whose date of composition is in the same year as Prism C (647 BC, possibly the eponymy of Nabû-da‘-inanni of Que). For the proposed date of Nabû-da‘-inanni's tenure, see M. Falkner, "Die Eponymen der spätassyrischen Zeit", *AfO* 17 (1954-56) 118; and Novotny, *Ebulbul* 17 n. 56.
Elamite campaigns, and the war against Dunanu of Gambulu, (3) an account describing Cyrus I and Pislumé sending messengers and tribute to Nineveh, (4) the final lines of the concluding formulae, (5) the date ("Aiiaru, day 6, year 30 of Assurbanipal, [ki]ng of Assyria"). Although the building report is no longer preserved, it probably described the rebuilding of Esabad ("House of the Open Ear"), the temple of the goddess Gula in Babylon, as suggested by the mention of Gula in the concluding formulae (col. viii 8') and by the provenance of ES 7832 (nº 1).

Catalogue:

1') ES 7832 (Borger’s H1)
2') Eşki Şark Eserleri Müzesi photo number K 714 (Borger’s H2)
3') A 8105 (+) MAH 16514 (Borger’s H3)

A 8105 (old Oriental Institute no. 252; Borger’s H3) is the only identified exemplar of Prism H in the Oriental Institute, measures 5.2 × 5.0 × 3.2 cm, and comes from the same prism as MAH 16514. Parts of the top of two columns (cols. iii'-iv', probably H v-vi) are preserved. The extant text contains a description of Assurbanipal placing Tammaritu on the throne of Elam, the king’s return to Assyria with booty, and the beginning of a report describing his campaign against Dunanu of Gambulu.

Fig. 5 - A 8105
### Transliteration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Col.</th>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Transliteration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>[&quot;ta-am&quot;]-ri-ti šEŠ-šú šal-šá-a-a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>[ina URU.hi-d]a-lu a-na LUGAL-tú äš-kun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>[ina tu-kul-t]i AN.ŠAR d+EN u d+AG</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>[it-ti šal'-la]i KUR.ELAM.MA.KI ma-at-ti</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>[šal'-meš a-tu-r]a a-na KUR-aš-šur.KI</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>[ina me-ti-i]q gi-ir-ri-ia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>[UGU &quot;du-n]a-nu DUMU md+EN-BA-šá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>[ana KUR.gam-bu-]i lu-ū al-li[k]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>[URU.ší-pi-i-d+EN] URU dan-nu-ti-[šú]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>[...] ak-šu-u[d]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>[&quot;du-na-nu šEš.MEš]-šú³ ul-tu qé-reb URU [šú-a-tú]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>[bal-tu-su-un] ú-še-ša-[a]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>[...] X.ME[S³ ...]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lacuna

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Col.</th>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Transliteration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ii'</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>X [ X ...]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>X [ X ...]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>X [ X ...]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lacuna

### Translation

**Col. i'**

i' 1-5) I installed [Tamm]aritu, his third brother, as king [in the city of Ḫid]alu. [With the support]t of the gods Aššur, Bel (Marduk), and Nabû, [I]t[urned]red [safely] to Assyria [with] abundant [boot]y from the land of Elam.

i' 6-13) [In the course] of my campaign, I march[ed to the land of Gambul]u [against Dun]anu, son of Bel-qiša. I conquer[ed the city of Ša-pi-Bel, his] fortified city, [...] I brough[t Dunanu] (and) his [brothers] out of [that] city [alive. ...] Lacuna

**Col. ii'**

ii' 1-3) No translation possible.

Lacuna

### Notes

i' 11: Borger (BIWA 193) restores [šu-a-tu] at the end of the line, but there is insufficient space (see copy).
Prism J

Fragments of five clay prisms preserve parts of the latest dateable prism inscription attributable to the reign of Assurbanipal (ca. 638 BC): Prism J. 21 There exemplars originate from nineteenth century excavations or from Thompson’s excavations at Nineveh (nos. 1-3), one was purchased from a dealer in Mosul (no. 4), and one exemplar was discovered in the city areas “Ischin aswad” or “Merkes” of Babylon (no. 5). The fragments from Nineveh and Mosul contain (1) parts of the king’s titles and epithets, (2) a passage describing how the gods supported Assurbanipal in a variety of ways, (3) accounts of the decoration of the temple of the god Marduk in Babylon (Esagila) and the temple of the god Nabû in Borsippa (Ezida), (4) reports of events along the Syrian coast and in Mannea, (5) a passage describing Assurbanipal’s dealings with Tugdammu, king of the Ummanmanda. The fragment from Babylon preserves the final lines of the military narration and the beginning of the building report, which describes the rebuilding or renovation of the akitu-house of divine supremacy at Babylon. How the versions from Nineveh (J_a) and Babylon (J_b) relate to one another is unclear since the two do not sufficiently overlap.

Catalogue:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{J}_a & \\
1. & 82-5-22,18 + 91-5-9,139 + BM 123410 \quad \text{(Borger’s J1)} \\
2. & 83-1-18,600 (+) BM 123425 \quad \text{(Borger’s J2 and J4)} \\
3. & BM 121027 \quad \text{(Borger’s J5)} \\
4. & \text{A 8110} \quad \text{(Borger’s J3)} \\
\text{J}_b & \\
5. & \text{VAT 17108} \quad \text{(Borger’s J6)}
\end{align*}
\]

\textbf{A 8110} (old Oriental Institute no. 213; Borger’s J3) is the only identified exemplar of Prism J in the Asiatic collection of the Oriental Institute, measures 6.2 \times 4.0 \times 2.2 \text{ cm}, is a duplicate of 82-5-22,18+, and comes from the middle (top half) of the first two columns of an octagonal prism. Col. i contains part of the prologue, namely the section describing how the gods supported Assurbanipal; lines 1’-2’ partially duplicate 82-5-22,18+ iii’.

21 For the identification of Prism J, see Borger, \textit{HKL} 2, 200 and \textit{BIWA} 189. For the most recent edition, see Borger, \textit{BIWA} 193-197, 209-210, 217, 222, and 250-251. For the proposed date, see Novotny, \textit{Ehulbul} 26 and n. 95; and Novotny, \textit{Or} 72, 215.

22 The non-physical join is based on the script (same hand), the colour and composition of the clay, and the curvature of the reverse side.
Col. ii preserves a section of an account of events in Mannea, in particular the overthrow of Aḫṣerî and the accession of Ualli\textsuperscript{23}. The height of the prism to which A 8110 belongs appears to have been much greater than that of 82-5-22,18+ and 83-1-18,600+ since the upper portion of col. ii of this exemplar contains military narration and those of the two aforementioned prisms have a continuation of the prologue, descriptions of the decoration of Esagila and Ezida, and since the report of events along the Syrian coast in 83-1-18,600+ iii almost certainly precedes the account of affairs in Mannea in A 8110 ii, as it does in all of the other known prism inscriptions\textsuperscript{24}. On the other hand, this difference may indicate that A 8110 is not an exemplar of Prism J, but rather part of a hitherto unclassified, late edition of Assurbanipal’s res gestae; the piece may belong to the same inscription as DT 145 and BM 134609, if we assume these fragments are not exemplars of Prism J\textsuperscript{25}. Further evidence is needed to clarify the attribution of A 8110.

\textsuperscript{23} Borger, BIWA 195, Stück 4.
\textsuperscript{24} Ibid. 195, Stück 4.
\textsuperscript{25} Ibid. 197-198, Heft 460, and LoBl 90. The extant text preserves parts of reports of the Šamaš-šumu-ukin rebellion(?) and the fifth Elamite campaign, specifically the looting of royal statues from Susa and the return of the goddess Nanaia to Ebliliana in Uruk. Borger tentatively suggests that these fragments may be exemplars of Prism J.
Transliteration

Lacuna
col. i

1') [mal-ke GAL.MEŠ šá ši-taš u ši-š[u] a](-)an
2') [a-na kit-ri-šú-nu ú]-paq”-qu]-u-ni
3') [AN.SÁR ẍ ... GEŠTU.II] DAGAL úšat-lim-u-in-ni
4') [kul-lat ṭup-šar-ru-ti ú-ša-hi]-zu ka-ra-ši
5') [ina UKKIN lu-li-me zi-kir M]u-ia ú-šar-bu-u
6') [... ke-m]u-a-[Ti]-tap-pa-lu
7') [EN-šal-ti-ia i-na-ru L]Ú.KÚ.Í.MEŠ-ia
8') [... ú-šam-qi-t[u] 1ga-l-re-ia
9') [...k]a-ru
10') [...]-Fu-tu

Lacuna
col. ii

Lacuna

1') =ú-ši-[a-li-í ...]
2') si-ḫu UGU-šú ū-[šab-šú-u ...]
3') EGR.-nu =ú-[i]-i DUMU-šú ú-šib ina GIL.GU.ZA-šú
4') da-na-an AN.SÁR ẍ[NÍ][LÍL ẍ30 ẍTU ẍŠKUR ẍAMAR.UTU ẍzar-pa-ni-tum ẍAG ẍPAPNUN]
5') ẍ15 šá ẍNIK.KI ẍ15 šá É-kid-mur-ri ẍ15 šá LIMMU-DINGIR.KI ẍMAŠ ẍU.GUR ẍmuku]
6') DINGIR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ ENS.ME[š-ia e-mur-ma ik-nu-šá a-na ni-ri-ia]
7') áš-šú ba-laḫ Zi-tim-šú up-n[a-a-šú ip-ta-a ú-šal-l-a a] EN-u-tu
8') =e-ri-si-in-ni DUMU-re-du-[ti-šú a-na NIK.KI iš-pur-am-ma]
9') [x x x] x [x x x] [x (x) x ]x [x x ...]
10') [...]’x’[...]

Translation
col. i

Lacuna

i l’-10’) [...] Great rulers from east and west] looked to me [for their protection. The gods Assur (and) ...] endowed me with a broad [mind (and) allowed me [to learn all of the scribal arts]. They made [the fame of my] name great [in the assembly of princes. ... In] my [stead] they always answered [my adversaries, killed] my enemies, [... cut down] my foes, [...]
Lacuna

ii 1'-9') U[alli ...] in[cited] a rebellion against him (Aḫšeri) [...]. Afterwards, Ual[li, his son, sat on his throne. He saw] the might of the gods Aššur, Mul[lissu, Sīn, Šamaš, Adad, Marduk, ZARPANTU, Nabū, Tašmetu], Ištar-of-Ninveh, [Ištar-of-the-Bit-Kidmuri, Ištar-of-Arbela, Ninurta, Ner-
gal, (and) Nusku], the great gods, [my] lord[s, and bowed down to my yoke]. To save his life, [he opened up his] pa[lms (and) beseeched my lordship. He sent] Erisinni, [his] crown pri[nce, to Nineveh and ...]

Notes

i 5’: The prism has BAD (see copy).

ii 4'-5’: The god-list is restored from Prism J i 17-20 (Borger, BIWA 194 Stück 1). Compare also Prism A i 14-17 (Borger, BIWA 15): AN.ŠÂR 4NIN.LÎL 4TU 4İŞKUR / 4+EN 4+AG 415 šá NINA.KI / 4šar-rat-kid-mu-ri 415 šá LÎMMU-DINGIR.KI / 4MAŠ 4U.GUR 4nusku.

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